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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1964

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BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone No.
BARNSTAPLE 2591.

Public Health Department,
The Castle,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1964

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.



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REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1964.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimated population figure for the Borough was 16,280 - an increase of 390 over the previous year.

There was a small increase in the number of births, from 324 to 328, and the total number of deaths increased from 235 to 252 as compared with 1963.

There was one infant death under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 3.04 per 1,000 Live Births. This is the lowest Infant Mortality Rate in the Borough's history. The rate in the early 1900's was between 110 and 180 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.

Six deaths occurred in young persons between the ages of 1 - 14 years. Three of these were accidental deaths, two as a result of road accidents, and the other due to accidental swallowing of caustic soda. It is true that, apart from congenital abnormalities, road accidents are one of the commonest causes of death amongst infants and young children.

The number of illegitimate births fell from 31 in 1963 to 26 in 1964.

No Lung Tuberculosis cases were reported during the year. Again, this is the first year when no such cases have been reported.

In the interest of Clean Food Hygiene, an attempt was made to encourage the Pannier Market Stallholders to sell cream from closed containers rather than from the traditional open bowl.

A few Stallholders have now adopted the new practice of using separate containers, and the open bowl has now been replaced by a covered bowl in the majority of cases.

Butchers' Row Shops : The display of meat for sale, including minced meat, etc., and cream in open-fronted shops in the Butchers' Row has been the accepted long-established practice in the town. The shops line a busy street, and there is no cover or protection of the meat from direct contamination from dust and petrol or diesel fumes of passing traffic. The Council have been concerned about the possibility of contamination of foods which are displayed in these open windows, and, as a result, the Butchers were requested by letter to ensure protection of the foods from contamination, and to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1960. These Regulations lay down that a person who is engaged in the handling of food shall take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect food from risk of contamination, and, in particular, shall not so place the food as to involve this risk. So far, this request by the Council, and the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, have not been observed. Before the Council could take statutory action, however, it would have to be proved that the consumption of these exposed foods had resulted in an infection. So far, no such evidence can be produced. The Butchers claim that if the shops were provided with a modern type shop frontage more suitable for the display of their meat, there would be no need for them to adopt the open window custom as at present. They have, however, accepted tenancy of the shops as they stand, and they should conform to the requirements laid down under the Food Hygiene Regulations with regard to Handling and Sale of Food.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help and interest given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee in the work of the Department, and also the Department Staff for their co-operation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

YEAR 1964/65

<u>His Worship the Mayor</u>	-	Councillor A. S. Williams, J.P.
<u>Chairman</u>	-	Alderman G. Casey
<u>Aldermen</u>	-	F. A. Dunning
		F. A. H. Molland, J.P.
<u>Councillors</u>	-	J. Bartlett
		R. G. Bates
		W. J. Bond
		A. C. Dibble
		D. G. Potter
		J. H. Rayner, C.C.,
		E. J. Shobbrook

S T A F F

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers -

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)							16,280
" at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,944
Rateable Value (as at 1-4-1965)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£657,613
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1964/65)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,606
General Rate per £. for Year 1964/65	...	...	...	...	...	...	10/2d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1-4-1965)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,033
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31-12-1964)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,254
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.23
Extracts from Vital Statistics -							
Births : Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.05
Deaths : " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.84

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	328
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	20.14
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.15
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.95

Stillbirths -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	23.8
Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	336
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Infant Mortality Rates -

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.04
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.04
Illegit. " " " " Illegit. " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	3.04
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	3.04
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births)	26.78
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.01

Deaths	...	...	...	...	252
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.47
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					12.99

POPULATION, BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1948 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (Regist.Gen. Estimate)	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951 (Census)	16,299	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961 (Census)	15,944	280	284
1962	15,650	289	228
1963	15,890	324	235
1964	16,280	328	252

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 328 live births, which was 4 more than occurred during 1963.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate ...	150	152	302
Illegitimate ...	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>
	163	165	328
	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>

The number of home confinements was 50, which is approximately 15% of the total live births.

<u>North Devon</u> <u>Infirmary</u>	<u>Highfield</u> <u>Maternity Home</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Bicclescombe</u> <u>Hospital,</u> <u>Ilfracombe</u>
56	195	50	9
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 20.14			
" " " " " " adjusted by Comp. Fact. 21.15			
Birth Rate for England & Wales 18.4			

The Birth Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1964 is as follows :-

1948 ... 19.8	1954 ... 15.90	1960 ... 17.28
1949 ... 18.0	1955 ... 15.60	1961 ... 18.58
1950 ... 14.32	1956 ... 15.34	1962 ... 19.01
1951 ... 16.15	1957 ... 16.67	1963 ... 21.41
1952 ... 16.32	1958 ... 16.04	1964 ... 21.15
1953 ... 16.05	1959 ... 18.64	

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	6	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	0.49
" " " " 1,000 Total Live & Still Births ...	23.8

DEATHS -

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 252, as compared with 235 in 1963.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
120	132	252

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.47
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					12.99
Death Rate for England & Wales	...	...	...	...	11.3

The Death Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1964 is as follows :-

1948	...	15.12	1954	...	11.42	1960	...	12.43
1949	...	11.39	1955	...	11.54	1961	...	15.36
1950	...	10.8	1956	...	12.25	1962	...	11.79
1951	...	11.81	1957	...	12.68	1963	...	12.41
1952	...	9.65	1958	...	12.24	1964	...	12.99
1953	...	15.41	1959	...	11.29			

The following table shows the Causes of Death :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	-	-	-
" - Other	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	-	-
" " - Lung, Bronchus	5	1	6
" " - Breast	-	4	4
" " - Uterus	-	3	3
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	12	23
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	16	24
Coronary Disease, Angina	27	13	40
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3	6
Other Heart Disease	33	52	85
Other Circulatory Disease	7	4	11
Influenza	-	-	-

- continued on next page -

Causes of Death (continued from Page 8)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis	3	3	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	-	4
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	4	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	4	6
All Other Accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	1	-	1
Homicide and Operations of War ...	1	-	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>252</u>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year ... 1	45 - 54 years ... 9
1 - 4 years ... 2	55 - 64 " ... 38
5 - 14 " ... 4	65 - 74 " ... 58
15 - 24 " ... 2	75 - 84 " ... 89
25 - 34 " ... 3	85 - 94 " ... 43
35 - 44 " ... 1	95 + " ... 2

Neo-natal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	1	-	1
Illegitimate ...	-	-	-

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births 3.04

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, one infant died under the age of one year. This was a male, aged 9 hours, the cause of death being pulmonary atelectasis; lower segment Caesarian section; pre-eclamptic toxæmia.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	1	-	1
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births ... 3.04

Maternal Mortality -

1, aged 34. Pulmonary embolism; femoral phlebo-thrombosis; normal childbirth.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 36 deaths from Cancer during the year, one more than in 1963.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lungs and Bronchus	...	5	1	6
Breast	...	-	4	4
Uterus	...	-	3	3
Other	...	11	12	23
		<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>36</u>

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus -

Year	1950	...	3	-	3
	1951	...	2	-	2
	1952	...	2	-	2
	1953	...	3	3	6
	1954	...	5	1	6

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus -
(continued)

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Year	1955	...	5	-	5
	1956	...	8	-	8
	1957	...	6	1	7
	1958	...	9	-	9
	1959	...	4	1	5
	1960	...	13	2	15
	1961	...	9	1	10
	1962	...	7	3	10
	1963	...	6	1	7
	1964	...	5	1	6

Cancer of the lung in Males decreased from 6 in 1963 to 5 in 1964, and in Females the number remained the same, viz. 1.

The total number of Cancer Deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1948 are shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>			<u>Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</u>
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1948	242	11	24	35	14.4%
1949	227	13	17	30	13.1%
1950	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	284	26	19	45	15.8%
1962	228	18	27	45	19.7%
1963	235	23	12	35	14.8%
1964	252	16	20	36	14.2%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1964, arranged in age groups :-

AGE GROUPS	Dysentery Sonne	Erysipelas	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Tuber- culosis		Whooping Cough
								Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.	
Under 1 year	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1 +	-	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2 +	-	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3 +	-	-	53	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 +	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
5 - 9	-	-	199	-	-	-	2	-	-	7
10 - 14	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
35 - 44	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	2	2	396	* 1	8	** 1	4	Nil	3	13

* Meningococcal Infection : F., aged 3 years.

** Puerperal Pyrexia : Diagnosed at North Devon Infirmary; transferred to Kingsley (Isolation) Hospital, Bideford.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis in the Borough, and no cases of Diphtheria, the last case of this disease occurring 19 years ago.

There were also no official notifications of Food Poisoning, although one suspected case was investigated, but proved negative.

For the first time since records were kept, no Pulmonary Tuberculosis notifications were received.

There were 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, viz. a male aged 62, and two females aged 27 and 41.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1946.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm.T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1946	15	0.94	13	0.82
1947	9	0.56	6	0.37
1948	11	0.68	6	0.37
1949	5	0.31	3	0.18
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	0	Nil
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	0	Nil
1957	6	0.37	0	Nil
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06
1962	3	0.19	0	Nil
1963	6	0.37	1	0.06
1964	0	Nil	0	Nil

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December:

1964	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			TOTAL
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1st January	68	34	102	9	9	18	120
31st December	68	33	101	9	11	20	121

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT visited the town in July, with the object of examining the general public, also employees of local firms and factories, and any special cases referred by General Practitioners.

The total number examined was 636, viz. 268 Males and 368 Females, and the findings of the survey were :-

(A) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS -

(1) Newly discovered significant cases -

(a) requiring treatment	Nil
(b) requiring further observation	Nil

(2) Healed cases : no further action	...	4
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(3) Previously known cases	3
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(B) OTHER CONDITIONS -

Sarcoidosis	1
-------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Bronchiectasis	1
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Cases failing to attend for further investigation ..	1
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HOUSING -

During the year, 12 Flatlets were erected at Woodville.

Consideration was given to the erection of 150 dwelling-houses at Frankmarsh, and 38 dwellings for elderly persons at Vicarage Street; also 20 one and two-bedroomed Flats at Congram's Row, Newport.

38 families remain to be re-housed from dwellings confirmed by the Ministry as being unfit.

There remain a further 18 dwellings to be dealt with under Closing or Clearance Orders.

The number of dwellings built by private enterprise during the year was 109.

WATER SUPPLIES -

The water supply to the Borough has been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water to the Borough is supplied by the North Devon Water Board. The water intake is from two sources: one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town. This water gravitates to the Treatment Works at Pilton, where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds, and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 87 bacteriological samples were submitted for examination. 86 were satisfactory.

SEWERAGE -

Barnstaple Borough (North Bank), and Swimbridge, Landkey and Bishop's Tawton Sewerage Schemes :

During the year discussions took place between the Barnstaple Borough and Barnstaple Rural District Councils regarding a sewerage disposal scheme. Originally, the Barnstaple Rural District Council proposed erecting a Treatment Works on the South Bank of the River Taw, about one mile up river from Barnstaple bridge. This Works would have dealt with the sewage from three parishes and the villages of Swimbridge, Landkey and Bishop's Tawton. The Ministry suggested that it might be practicable for both Authorities to reach agreement for a combined Sewage Treatment Works.

Both Councils have now agreed to a combined North Bank Sewerage Scheme, with a Treatment Works at Ashford, and the Consulting Engineers are preparing preliminary drawings and plans.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenaeum for the following information regarding the Borough :-

Barometer : Highest reading 30.8 inches on 7th February, 1964.
Lowest : " 29.1 " " 9th October, 1964.

Temperature : Maximum 77° on 4th August, 1964.
Minimum 18° on 7th February, 1964.
Mean for the Year 49.4°F.

Rainfall : 28.42 inches.
Average for preceding 10 years : 34.16 inches.
Number of days on which .01 or more inches of rain fell : 163.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective Immunization and Vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis, are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are three Infant Welfare Clinics in Barnstaple; these are held at Alexandra Road Clinic weekly, and Sticklepath and Forches Clinics fortnightly.

"MEALS ON WHEELS"

This service is still run by the W.V.S. The meals are prepared at a Restaurant in the town, from where they are collected and distributed. At present, the number of meals distributed is limited to 24 each week, but it is expected that, when the kitchen at the Hawley Occupational Centre is in operation, it will be possible to increase the number of meals available to the elderly in the town.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors, and, in cases of ill-health, by the District Nurses. The W.V.S. also visit the elderly and assist by doing their shopping, etc. Two "Darby & Joan Clubs" exist in the town, one in the Pilton district, and the other at Newport. Both these Clubs are run by the W.V.S.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951 -

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home. No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

MATERNITY CASES -

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a Ward of 14 beds for maternity cases, with a fully-qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for maternity and ante-natal patients, and during the year 9 Barnstaple births took place at this Hospital.

There are also 4 beds for maternity cases at Braunton Nursing Home, but no Barnstaple births occurred there in 1964.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

The Smallpox Hospital, to which any cases of Smallpox would be sent, is Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter. Medical Officers of Health have been asked that, where a suspected case of Smallpox is brought to their notice, the Medical Officer in Charge of the Isolation Hospital should be informed as soon as possible, as there may be a slight delay before the Hospital is ready to receive patients.

Telephone : Upton Pyne Hospital (through the Isolation Hospital) Whipton, Exeter 67158.

Special ambulance transport for the conveyance of Smallpox cases is obtainable from : Exeter 55485.

GENERAL -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district. There are 113 beds.

Two Wards, with a total of 33 beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, are set aside as an Annexe to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

LABORATORY -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out there.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area.

The Blood Bank is also situated at this local Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V.D. Clinic : This is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

MALES (Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
(Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

FEMALES (Mondays, 4.00 p.m.
(Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic : held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-
Sessions

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Clinic & X-Ray Examinations

Infant Welfare Clinics : There are now three Infant Welfare
(clinics in Barnstaple. These are held on the following days :-

Alexandra Road Clinic -

Every Tuesday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.,

Every Thursday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall Clinic, Sticklepath -

2nd & 4th Friday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Forches Estate Clinic (Borough Arms Hotel) -

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Dental Clinic : held daily at the Alexandra Road Clinic, for
expectant mothers, school children, and children under 5 years.

Eye Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic every 2nd Friday
of each month, for school children, and children under 5 years.

Ante-Natal Clinic : at Alexandra Road Clinic, held by the District
Nurses and Health Visitors, every Monday afternoon. The Physio-
therapist from the Hospital is also in attendance.

Family Planning Clinic : This Clinic is run by the Exeter and
District Women's Welfare Association, and is held on the 1st
Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 113 Boutport Street.
A lady doctor is in attendance.

A Birth Control Clinic is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month
between 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. at the same Centre. Visits by
appointment only.

Hearing Clinic : This is held at the Alexandra Road Clinic on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for school-children and children under 5 years.

A Specialist Hearing Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary on the 4th Wednesday of the month, between 2 and 4 p.m., for school children and children under 5 years.

Minor Ailments Clinic : held each Friday morning, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Speech Therapy Clinic ; held each Wednesday at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Chiropody Service : This service operates at the Alexandra Road Clinic every Wednesday and Friday. The W.V.S. arrange the rotas and assist the Chiropodists generally. The charge is 2/6d., but the service is free for Old Age Pensioners receiving National Assistance, also to expectant mothers.

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. Telephone : Barnstaple 2600. The staff consists of four paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME -

There are 5 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a Report on the work of the Borough's
Public Health Inspectors for the Year 1964 :-

There were no changes in the personnel of the Department
during the year.

Each succeeding year sees a new piece of legislation which means increased work and responsibility for the Public Health Department. 1964 saw the coming into force of most provisions of the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, which promises to be a "charter" for office and shop workers generally, and extends to them the conditions of health, safety and welfare that factory workers have enjoyed for generations. No Act has ever spawned such a flow of circulars, directions, regulations and standards. No Act since the Housing Act of 1935 (Overcrowding) will mean more visits to premises to secure registration and enforce the provisions which relate to cleanliness, overcrowding, lighting, ventilation and heating, sanitary conveniences, drinking water and washing accommodation, safety and welfare in most offices and shops. Indeed, most large Local Authorities have enrolled special staff to administer this Act.

Housing is the only field where even minor complacency is possible. Only 5 houses were demolished during the year, but at least another 60 are under suspended sentence only because new houses were not ready for their occupiers. The achievements of the past 10 years in Slum Clearance now seem almost incredible. Few towns of like size can show such a record, and it is worth pointing out that at least 16 street names have completely disappeared from the map, and that some of these contained 50 houses.

Yet, despite this warning of what fate must befall houses that are neglected, grants for improvement are not so popular as

they deserve to be. Figures supplied by the Borough Surveyor's Department show that only 39 houses were improved by way of this assistance from public funds.

A new Housing Act, which came into force during the year, gave the Local Authority power to inspect their district and declare certain areas to be "Improvement Areas" where compulsive powers can be used to bring houses up to the after-grant standard.

Meat inspection was again a daily duty which accounted for more than a third of all visits made during the year. It is rare to record a reduction in numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected, but there were 11,000 less than in the previous year. The general hope will be that this is the beginning of a "run-down" period for the Tuly Street Public Abattoir. This place must surely be now in the last decade of its long, useful life, and its early removal is one of the major matters of concern both to Public Health and to the planning of the Town Centre.

On Refuse Collection and Disposal, it is always a pleasure to say how efficiently the service was performed, without any serious hitch, though repairs to some of the vehicles were frequent and costly, but the modern type of vehicle which compresses its load hydraulically is, naturally, a more complicated thing than the early side-loaders. 1964 was the last full year when the whole of the Borough's refuse was not collected in rear-loading vehicles capable of compressing their loads, and so making an easier, cleaner task for the loaders, while cutting out many visits to the point of disposal.

A few statistics : the three vehicles travelled at least 12,500 miles during the year, collecting approximately 50,000 tons of house and trade refuse which was tipped, compacted and sealed, to cover $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to a depth of 7 feet. There was no known complaint during the year of any nuisance or annoyance from the controlled tipping of refuse.

The service was never interrupted by weather or other cause. I am, as always, grateful to the men who carried out their duties ably and cheerfully.

1964 was the tenth year of controlled tipping of refuse at Seven Brethren's Bank, and nearly 15 acres of its low-lying land has been raised to the level where development is possible. Several sites have already been leased for such purposes, and by the end of the year, one, at least, was being developed. The dream that this area would one day accommodate the Borough Abattoir appears now to have been only that and nothing more, but it appears possible that at least Barnstaple Fair will find a permanent site there.

In food premises, the trend continued towards the possible disappearance in our time of the small privately-owned grocery store. The deep-freeze cabinets and the instant meal are now a part of our lives, and the renaissance of Barnstaple in the last decade has certainly attracted investment from the large caterers in the food industry. The 'food palaces' they have erected have many virtues. They are spacious, well-lighted and ventilated, are planned for their purpose, and not the result of conversion from another use. Their huge stocks are usually code-marked and properly rotated. Behind them is a wealth of research and laboratory control. This eulogy is in no way intended to disparage the small shop or its proprietor - a sensible and experienced food handler who observes some elementary rules of hygiene can as safely dispense food as can his larger competitors. It is a pleasure to record that most of them do.

The only residential Caravan Site in the Borough continued to be a place of good report in every way. Indeed, it is the most improved place of habitation in Barnstaple, with modern toilets, laundry and showers, piped water and drainage for waste water, roadway and paths, car park and playground, where a few years ago was a source of constant nuisance and complaint.

The above narrative is of a general nature, intended to give some life and meaning to the duties performed as shown in the following tables and data.

I am again grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, all members of the Council, and to the staffs of all other Departments for their courtesy and assistance. In particular, I thank my fellow-workers in the Public Health Department for yet another year of most happy co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION -

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	2,791
Calves	...	334
Sheep	...	32,582
Pigs	...	<u>8,243</u>
		43,950

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

35 tons 3 cwt.s., 1 qr. 5 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	64
Calves	...	73
Sheep	...	701
Pigs	...	<u>31</u>
		869

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was 0.4% against 0.3% in 1963.

Examinations for Cysticercus Bovis (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 14 cases were found, a decrease of 5 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was .50% against .35% in 1963.

There is no other Slaughterhouse licensed for use in the Borough.

10 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Ministry of Health :-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Hors- es
Number killed	2,347	444	334	32,582	8,243	Nil
Number inspected	2,347	444	334	32,582	8,243	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole Carcases cond'd.	4	60	73	701	30	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...d.	644	247	Nil	1,179	4	Nil
% of number insp- affected with dis- ease other than T.B. & Cysticerci	27.6%	69.1%	21.8%	5.7%	0.4%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...d.	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	159	Nil
% of number insp- affected with T.B.	Nil	0.4%	Nil	Nil	1.9%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	14	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(2) FOOD PREMISES -

(a) The following is a list of Food Premises * in the Borough :-

Bread & Cakes	...	...	16
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	19
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	16
Fish (wet)	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	9
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	25
Groceries & General Provisions	...	...	63
Ice Cream	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	28
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	2
Public Houses & Hotels	...	...	40
Sweets & Confectionery	...	...	109
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)	...	...	4
			<hr/>
			341
			<hr/>

* N.B. Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business.

(b) 132 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, viz. 48 for the Preparation of Processed Foods, and 84 for the Sale of Ice Cream.

(c) Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

TINNED FOOD

					<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Chicken	...	...	11	tin(s)					
Cream	...	...	8	")					
Egg Whites	...	...	1	")					
Fish	...	...	138	")					
Fruit	...	...	896	")					
Fruit Juices	...	...	21	")					
Jams, Conserves	...	...	6	")					
Meat	...	...	348	")					
Milk	...	...	42	")					
Milk Puddings	...	...	10	")					
Mincemeat	...	...	1	")	1.	7.	0.	20.	15½
Nuts	...	...	4	")					
Sausages	...	...	1	")					
Soups	...	...	50	")					
Spaghetti	...	...	4	")					
Steak & Kidney Pies	...	...	8	")					
Stew (Irish)	...	...	4	")					
Vegetables	...	...	144	")					
			1,697	")					

OTHER FOODS

Bacon	...	...	...	-	1	2	24	13
Cheese	...	...	...	-	2	0	16	12
Chicken (5 whole)	...	...	...	-	-	-	9	8
Christmas Puddings (12)	...	...	...	-	-	-	10	0
Fruit (fresh) (including 8 boats)	...	...	...	-	1	3	1	0
Fruit Jellies (8 jars)	...	...	...	-	-	-	2	0
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	-	1	2	14	0
Fish (shell) (11 packets)	...	...	...	-	-	-	5	8
Horseradish Sauce (9 jars)	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	6½

- continued over -

Other Foods (continued from Page 29)

				tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
Jam (28 jars)	...	...	...	-	-	1	0	0
Meat (Butchers' Shops)	...	...	...	-	2	3	9	4
Meat (opened tins)	...	...	...	-	-	-	7	0
Oats (1 packet)	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	8
Pies (53)	...	...	...	-	-	-	26	8
Salad Cream (2 jars)	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	4
Salt	...	...	...	-	-	-	4	8
Sauce (4 bottles)	...	...	...	-	-	-	3	0
Suet (11 packets)	...	...	...	-	-	-	5	8
Vegetables	...	...	...	11	19	0	8	0
				12	10	0	11	7½
<u>TOTAL CONDEMNED</u>	...	...		13.	17.	1.	4.	6¾

Also condemned : Total contents of 2 Frozen Food
Cabinets : weight unknown.

(3) ICE CREAM -

24 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year for
bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

PRODUCER	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	Total
'A'	7	1	2	-	10
'B'	11	2	-	-	13
'C'	-	1	-	-	1
TOTAL	18	4	2	-	24

(4) MILK & DAIRIES -

The number of Producer-Retailers in the Borough is now 8, and from these, 10 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus. All were negative.

(5) INFECTIOUS DISEASE INVESTIGATION -

Sample of roast pork submitted for bacteriological examination following unofficial notification of Food Poisoning case. No significant organisms were isolated.

(6) DISINFECTION -

2 Library Books (Infectious Disease).

(7) DISINFESTATION -

20 premises were treated for pests, as follows :-

Cockroaches	...	7
Fleas	....	9
Flies	...	3
Wasps (nests)	...	1

Number of treatments at such premises :-

Cockroaches	...	28
Fleas	...	16
Flies	...	3
Wasps (nests)	...	1
		<hr/>
		48
		<hr/>

(8) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

The following Storage Licences were granted under the above Act :-

Petroleum Spirit only	...	...	...	...	55
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	...				6
Petroleum Mixtures only	...	...	...		7
Petroleum Mixtures & Carbide of Calcium	...				1
					<hr/>
					69
					<hr/>

The quantities stored were as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	199,830	gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	2,535	"
Carbide of Calcium	...	56	lbs.

The amount of fees received by the Corporation in respect of such Licences was £53. 10. 0d.

(9) EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was 34.

(10) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during 1964 :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec ^{d.} -
1. Factories in which S.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	17	5	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	141	83	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers' Premises	10	-	-	-
TOTAL 	168	88	-	-

(10) (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions instit ^d .
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	8	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	6	-	1	-

(10) (c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.110, 1c.)	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	61	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace-curtains, Nets	7	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	68	-	-	-	-	-

(11) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS
CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1964 :-

Nature of Works Done	Public Health Acts	Hous- ing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Fact- ories Acts
Drains repaired	31	-	-	-
Drains cleared	52	-	-	-
Smoke & water tests applied	3	-	-	-
New vent pipes provided	4	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	3	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	8	-	-	-
New interceptors fixed	2	-	-	-
New soil pipes fixed	2	-	-	-
New gullies fixed	3	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	5	1	-	-
Additional W.Cs. provided	1	-	-	-
W.Cs. repaired	2	-	-	-
New flushing cisterns provided	1	-	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	6	1	-	-
Rain pipes repaired	1	-	-	-
Guttering renewed or repaired	5	-	-	-
Plaster repaired - external	6	2	-	-
" " - internal	5	1	-	-
Dampness remedied	4	1	-	-
Lighting improved	1	-	-	-
Sculleries provided	1	1	-	-
New scullery sinks provided	1	1	-	-
Sink waste pipes fixed	2	2	-	-
Rooms cleansed	-	-	37	9
Food protected from contamina-) tion)	-	-	22	-
Bins provided	5	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations removed	1	-	-	-
Vermin and other pests eradi-) cated)	20	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	92	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	5	-	-
Houses closed	-	2	-	-
Part Houses closed (e.g. Basements)	-	1	-	-

(12) SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Total visits made	...	...	...	3,499
Houses inspected - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	456
" " - P.H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	...	225
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	...	60
" " - H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	...	78
" " - H.A. (measured)	...	...	...	1
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	1,369
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	51
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	110
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	317
Bakehouses	...	...	...	14
Milk Vehicles (including sampling)	...	...	...	13
Dairies	...	...	...	11
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	25
Shops Act	...	...	...	6
Caravans	...	...	...	10
Factories	...	...	...	88
Rodent Control	...	...	...	54
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	278
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	20
Infectious Disease Investigation	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	...	44
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices - Housing Acts	...	...	...	Nil
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	40
" " - P.H.A. (secondary)	...	...	...	27
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	63
